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In addition to what appear to be serviceable keys to the genera and species, that which is now believed to be their necessary bibliography and synonomy, adequate descriptions, and a full citation of material examined, the work contains a large amount of tabular and statistical matter, which if not of interest to the ordinary seeker after the name of a plant, at least shows the painstaking care that has been bestowed on the study. An interesting feature is a table of data concerning the specimens which have served for illustration, and as all of the sixty-two native and sixteen introduced genera are figured, both as to the appearance of their fruit and its cross section, this information is of no little importance for those who in future may have to familiarize themselves with what these genera now stand for.

That all but four of some 800 references have been verified not only shows the industry of the authors but ensures the trustworthiness of their statements in this, a feature which is too often lamentably misleading to the men who compile from unverified citations.

The most conspicuous changes are as follows: *Coloptera* C. & R. is found to represent true *Cymopterus,* and the Cymopterus aggregate of the former *Revision* is distributed under four genera, two of them new (*Aulospermum* and *Rhysopterus*), and two of them Nuttallian (*Phellopterus* and *Pteryxia*)*; Peucedanum* L. is found to have no indigenous species in North America, and this greatest of our umbelliferous genera becomes known as *Lomatium* Raf., certain groups of species heretofore included being recognized as genera, as *Cynomarathrum* Nutt. and *Euryptera* Nutt.; *Centella* L. is recognized as distinct from *Hydrocotyle; Deweya* T. & G. is restricted to its type species, and a new genus, *Drudeophytum,* established to include the other species variously described under Deweya, Velaea, and Arracacia; and *Sphenosciadium* Gray is taken out of *Selinum.* As a result of these and other changes, the following generic names disappear from our flora: *Coloptera* C. & R.. *Crantzia* Nutt., *Cryptotaenia* DC., *Discopleura* DC., *Leptocaulis* Nutt., *Osmorhiza* Raf., *Peucedanum* L., *Phellopterus* Benth., *Selinum* L., *Tiedemannia* DC., and *Velaea* DC.

All-in-all, though changes are not unlikely to occur that may relatively soon cause us to look upon this as merely work of the last century, it appears to be of such a character that the twenty-first century will still see it at the elbow of every advanced and attentive student of the Umbelliferae of our country.—WILLIAM TRELEASE.

MINOR NOTICES.

THE THIRD FASCICLE of the second volume of Pittier's *Flora of Costa Rica*[3] has appeared. The first fascicle contained the Polypetalae (excepting

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[3] PITTIER, H.—Primitiae Florae Costaricensis. Vol. II, pp. 219–294. Piperaceæ, by Casimir de Condelle. San José de Costa Rica. 1899. $1.

Polygalaceae, Sapindaceae, Meliaceae, Leguminosae, and Melastomaceae), by John Donnell Smith. The second fascicle included the Gamepetalae (excepting Rubiaceae, Compositae, Solanaceae, Convolvulaceae, Acanthaceae, and Labiatae), by the same author. The present fascicle presents the Piperaceæ, by Casimir de Candolle, who calls attention to the close affinity of the flora to that of South America. The two genera are Piper and Peperomia; the former containing eighty-three species, fifty-one of which are described as new; the latter forty-three species, twenty-one of which are new.—J. M. C.

PROFESSOR KARL SCHUMAN has begun the publication of *Blühende Kakteen* (*Iconographia Cactacearum*), with the assistance of the Deutsches Kakteen-Gesellschaft. Each part is to contain four colored plates, with descriptive text, and is sold for four marks. It is expected that about three parts will be issued each year. The first part contains *Echinocactus microspermus* Web., *Echinopsis cinnabarina* Lab., *Echinocereus subinermis* Salm-Dyck, and *Echinocactus Anisitsii* K. Sch., the last being a new species from Paraguay. The plates are beautifully colored illustrations of the plants in bloom, made from nature by Frau Dr. T. Gürke. The text, by Professor Schuman, needs no comment. The publisher is J. Neumann, Neudamm, Brandenburg, Germany.—J. M. C.

DR. A. J. GROUT'S *Mosses with a hand lens*[4] describes in nontechnical language 100 of the mosses of the northeastern United States which can be recognized with some degree of certainty by the use of a simple lens. The identification in many cases must be limited to the genus, the specific differences being too recondite for observation in this way. Miss Thayer's excellent drawings will be quite as helpful to the student as Dr. Grout's text. A key based upon the more apparent structural characters, and one based upon habitat, would need to be tested before pronouncing judgment upon them, but they are here and there unavoidably somewhat vague, which always detracts from the value of a key. The only danger from the use of such a book will be that beginners will not heed sufficiently the author's cautions, and will be too sure of their determinations. But if properly used the book will stimulate interest in the mosses and lead on to more exact study.

The glossary has concise and accurate definitions, elucidated by admirable illustrations. It would have been more serviceable had it been arranged in one alphabetic sequence instead of being divided into several. One must first know to what his strange word is applicable before he can tell in what group to look for it.— C. R. B.

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[4] GROUT, A. J.: Mosses with a hand lens. A nontechnical handbook of the more common and more easily recognized mosses of the northeastern United States. Illustreated by Mary V. Thayer. 8vo. pp. xii+74. *pls. 8. figs. 90.* New York: The Author, 360 Lenox Road, Flatbush. 1900.